

EUROPA 1978 ISSUE

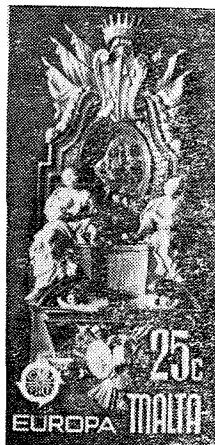
Date of Issue	26th April 1978.
Values	7c and 25c.
Stamp Size	21.5mm x 43mm.
Art Designer	Chev. Emvin Cremona.
Printers	Printex Limited Malta.
Process	Lithography.
Perforation	13.8 x 13.3 (comb).
Watermark	Maltese Crosses pointing upright.
Paper	Chalk surfaced.
Gum	P.V.A.



E U R O P A ' 7 8

7c Monument to
Grandmaster
Nicola Cottoner

25c Monument to
Grandmaster
Ramon Perellos



Colours

The colour of these stamps was produced by the multi-colour process.

Designs

The "Europa" stamp set for this year features two of the finest monuments in the Co-Cathedral of St. John in Valletta. Both monuments can be seen in the Chapel of St. George, which was the National Chapel of the Langue of Aragon, Catalonia and Navarre of the Hospitaller Order of St. John.

The monument to Grand Master Nicola Cottoner, featured on the 7c stamp, is probably the work of the Florentine sculptor Giovanni Battista Foggini (1652-1725). The 25c stamp depicts the monument to Grand Master Ramon Perellos, which is the work of Giuseppe Mazzuoli, of Siena, (1644-1725).

This is the eight "Europa" set, issued by the G.P.O. and has again been printed in small Panes of ten stamps. Both values are of the vertical format. Each Pane is divided into twelve spaces, three rows of four. The second space of the top row is used for the wording "EUROPA 1978" with the C.E.P.T. symbol on top. The third space of the top row is again used for the wording "EUROPA 1978" but with the C.E.P.T. symbol under it. The value of a whole Pane of ten stamps is seen in the top margin above the two middle spaces just described.

Colour checks, in the form of discs, 3mm in diameter, are seen in the right hand margin, of each Pane, next to the last stamp of the bottom row. The colours from top to bottom, correspond to the colours used for Pane numbers from right to left on all Panes of both values. There are nine Panes of ten stamps, to each Printed Sheet, of each value.

Plate/Pane Numbers

These are seen under the first stamp of the bottom row and also extending to the left, of the first vertical perforation line.

7c = 1A x 6 up to and including 1I x 6.

25c = 1A x 6 up to and including 1I x 6.

Perforation of Margins

The left hand margins of Panes "A", "D" and "G" of both values are imperforate, whilst the same left hand margin of Panes "B", "C", "E", "F", "H" and "I" are fully perforated.

The top, bottom and right hand margins, of all Panes from "A" to "I" in both values are also fully perforated.

PANE "A"	PANE "B"	PANE "C"
WMK. ↑	WMK. ↑	WMK. ↑
PANE "D"	PANE "E"	PANE "F"
WMK. ↑	WMK. ↑	WMK. ↑
PANE "G"	PANE "H"	PANE "I"
WMK. ↑	WMK. ↑	WMK. ↑

The Printed Sheet before cutting would have looked as shown on left. This is a similar setting to that used for the 'Europa' 1977 set. The only difference being that in this set, the perforator ran from Panes "A", "D", "G" to Panes "B", "E", "H" to Panes "C", "F", "I" and in last year's set, it ran from Panes "A", "B", "C" to Panes "D", "E", "F" to Panes "G", "H", "I". Looking at the Printed Sheet, as shown in diagram, stamps of both values, would be seen the right way up. Hence why watermark is upright.

Imprint Blocks

The Imprint "PRINTEX LIMITED MALTA", in letters 1mm high, is seen under the last stamp of the bottom row, and also extending to the right hand margin.

A special hand-postmark was used on the first day of issue for cancellation. It is inscribed with the date, "26-4-78", the name of the respective locality and the C.E.P.T. emblem, surrounded by the words: "L-Ewwel Jum Tal-Ffrug", "Malta".

Up to 4 p.m. the sales of this set realized the sum of £M284,136, a record sale for a first day of issue, of any EUROPA set.

AUCTIONS

Members will join in thanking Mr. B. Jacobs and Mr. S.N. Bush in their joint effort in organizing the Society's auction. Mr. B. Jacobs now left the Island and his departure means we are left without an auctioneer. We need somebody who can offer some of his spare time to organize the next auction. Any volunteers?